

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

TOWARDS EVENING. Father, the shadows fall Along my way; 'Tis past the noon of day. My "westerner" tells that the eve is near; I know, but feel no fear. And loved ones have gone home— A holy band. I hear them call me from the spirit-land— A gentle call; Yes, dear ones, I shall come. O, not alone! though now I lead the van, And, with uncovered head, Press on where others led, Where my young life began. I am not left alone, Though they are gone; Sweet voices of the past, And of to-day— The loved that round my way Still twine around my heart, Tell me how good their art. O holy Light and Love! Beam on my soul, My inmost life control; Then may each pure thought spring, And peace, with gentle wing, Brood like the dove.

THE ATONEMENT OF CHRIST.

In his "Conversation on Particular Redemption," Andrew Fuller replies to the statement that "the first grand idea suggested to an enlightened mind by the atonement of Christ is not God's hatred of sin, but His love to sinners," by saying that "the former was manifested to prepare the way for the latter. If the question were, Why did God give His Son to die for sinners, rather than leave them to perish in their sins? the answer would be, Because He loved them. But if the question be, Why did God give His Son to be an atonement for sinners, rather than save them with out one? the answer would be, Because he loved righteousness and hated iniquity." And this appears to be a correct statement of the case. Redemption itself proves the benevolence of God to men, and the method of redemption proves the sanctity of the law in his sight. The sacrifice of Christ had for its proximate end, on the Divine side, a change in God's attitude towards sinners; and for its proximate end on the human side, a change in the attitude of sinners towards God; it secured the exercise of grace on the one hand and repentance on the other. Without this vindication of His righteous law, including the penalty annexed to transgression, God would not have approached the sinner with terms of pardon, and without this evidence of God's hatred of sin and love to men, the sinner would not have welcomed pardon with a contrite heart. These statements represent, we suppose, the obvious meaning of the Sacred Scriptures and the settled belief of most Protestant Christians. If they are correct, the atonement, or sacrificial death of Christ, is not only the central doctrine of our religion, but without it the Gospel would cease to be a Gospel in the full sense of the word.

SUMMARY OF CHURCH NEWS.

EPISCOPAL.—The ritualists of England, says the Non-conformist, have organized a new Liberation Society, which is, if possible, more outspoken than the old one. It then quotes the following words of the Rev. Orby Shipley, who may be considered in the light of President:—"A free Church is the only antitype to a free State." "Our present position (that of subjection to the State), I do not hesitate to stigmatize as utterly anomalous, scandalously unjust, and undeniably odious." "It is a violation of all consistency, that an emancipated nation should either hold in subjection, or be held in subjection to, a Church still politically enslaved." According to the Churchman's Year Book, one-third of the Episcopal clergy have changed their places in the past year. The Churchman thinks this is an instructive fact, and construes it as evidence that at least one-third of the clergy are not receiving an adequate support—or, to put it another way, a fair day's wages for a fair day's work. The Church of the Ascension (Dr. J. C. Smith's) in New York has just successfully completed its effort to raise \$32,000 for the building of a church for the institutions at Ganbier, Ohio. Rev. T. S. C. M. Potter, of Massachusetts, late a Unitarian minister, is about to join the Episcopal Church. Rev. C. E. Cheney, of Chicago, is again threatened with church discipline for having preached in a Presbyterian pulpit in California. The Church Weekly (organ of the advanced ritualists) hints at the introduction of monogamy into the Episcopal Church in those words:—"Recognizing, more or less distinctly, the good in monasticism of the past, what is to be said of the re-establishment of the system in our own day, and in our own Reformed Communion? Is the character of our time so different from that of former years that religious orders are an anachronism?" Rev. Dr. Bledsoe, for many years the editor of the Southern Quarterly Review, has left the Protestant Episcopal Church, and joined the Methodist Episcopal.

PRESBYTERIAN.—The Presbyterian Church, which, after the rennon of the Old School Presbyterians, has a membership of 150,000, with 4235 ministers displays a remarkable energy. The Committee on the \$5,000,000 Memorial Fund, after mature consideration, adopted the following plan:—To make it easy for every member to pay his or her proportion, the \$5,000,000 were divided into \$1,000,000 free will offerings of ten cents each, weekly, for the fifty current weeks elapsing between June 5, 1870, and May 14, 1871, inclusive. Each offering, when complete, would thus amount to \$5, and the whole to \$5,000,000. Any person is, of course, at liberty to subscribe one or more shares of this fund, and some have given nobly—at least one individual having subscribed \$50,000 to the fund. Up to the present date, about \$3,000,000 have been subscribed, but though the time is short in which to raise the remaining \$2,000,000, there are sanguine hopes that it will be realized within the time specified. One million dollars of this sum have been devoted to denominational institutions of learning throughout the land, and \$2,000,000 have gone toward strengthening weak churches and providing parsonages. There is, also, in addition to this, a grand project on foot among the churches of New York to raise a fund of \$1,000,000 to establish a mission-building there, similar to the Methodist Book Concern on Broadway, only that it would not be a publishing house, that department of the Presbyterian Church enterprise being carried on quite extensively in Philadelphia. A portion of this fund is to go also toward the erection and endowment

of the new Union Theological Seminary, which is soon to be transferred up town. About one-third of the sum needed for those interests has been raised, and the subscriptions are steadily pouring in. New York Presbyterians are also engaged in the erection of a costly and commodious hospital, designed to be perfect in all its appointments. The plot of ground, comprising an entire block, extending from Seventieth to Seventy-first streets, and from Madison to Fourth avenues, was given by one individual, and over \$400,000 in cash has been received from various donors. Three buildings are already in process of erection, and two more are designed to be built.

It is rumored that a movement is being inaugurated in the city of New York to organize a Presbyterian church—an old-fashioned Presbyterian church—to be connected with the Presbytery of Chesapeake.

The Rev. F. L. Ewing, formerly in charge of the Presbyterian church at Palaski, Tenn., has accepted an invitation from the Rev. Dr. F. A. Ross, of Huntsville, Ala., to labor with him; the latter being unable, through age and infirmities, to attend to all the duties of his charge.

The Houston (Texas) Church, made vacant by the resignation of the Rev. W. C. Sewell, has given a unanimous call to the Rev. R. K. Knoot, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, to be their pastor.

The Rev. E. Porter Palmer, Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy in the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has accepted a call to the Jackson Street Church, Mobile, Alabama.

At the meeting of Tombeckbee Presbytery last April, the church at Marion Station, Mississippi, was dissolved, and the members, twenty-four in number, transferred to Meridian. Twenty-three others have been added from time to time, by certificate, and five on examination—in all fifty-two; thus doubling the membership in less than one year.

METHODIST.—The cornerstone of a new Methodist Episcopal church at Business Ayres, South America, was laid December 17. A large number of distinguished men were present, including Hon. R. C. Kirk, United States Minister. An earnest address was made by a Roman Catholic, Don Juan Carlos Gomez, who hailed the advent of Methodism as the commencement of a new and glorious era. South America has now 4 ministers, 220 members, 3 churches, valued at \$119,000 (with the new building, \$219,000), 7 Sunday-schools—average attendance, 406.

The bishops of the Methodist Church have chosen the Rev. H. H. Farnell, Decatur, Iowa, to establish a mission at Rome, Italy. The Rev. William H. Miles, recently elected Bishop of the Southern Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, was a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church until after the General Conference of that Church in 1868.

The Boston Methodist Theological Seminary has all the students it can accommodate, and is greatly in need of new buildings.

Rev. Mr. Duhard, a Methodist minister, was recently murdered and robbed near Columbia, S. C. On Monday, December 19, the ceremony of unveiling the monument erected to the memory of Mrs. Susannah Wesley, mother of Rev. John and Charles Wesley, took place at City Road chapel, London. The monument was erected by public subscription.

Rev. Thomas B. King, for several years a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was received into the New Church (Swedenborgian), at St. Louis, on Sunday, December 4.

BAPTIST.—A convention of delegates from the Baptist churches of California assembled at Vacaville, December 1. They accepted the college recently purchased from the Methodists, elected trustees, and took all necessary steps to incorporate, under the College act, a first-class college. The trustees chose a President and a faculty for the infant college, and made all preparations to commence the session on January 1, 1871.

The total membership in the Baptist Church in Pennsylvania is 57,082. Sixty-one churches, with a membership of 3091, are not associated. These are mainly Welsh and German churches. The above figures are probably more complete than in former years, particularly so in relation to the Welsh Baptists in the State.

Ten lots on Sixty-seventh and Sixty-eighth streets, and between Lexington and Fourth avenues, New York, have come into the possession of the Baptist Ladies' Old People's Home Society, for ninety-nine years, at a dollar a year.

CONGREGATIONAL.—Sixteen persons were received into the First Congregational Church at Washington, D. C., January 1. One came from a Methodist church, three from Baptist, five from Presbyterian, and six from Congregational churches. Among the latter were Senator Tipton and wife, late members of the Central Congregational Church of Washington.

A member of Mr. Beecher's church in Brooklyn has given \$10,000 to establish the "Beecher Lectureship" in Yale Theological Seminary. Mr. Beecher is to give the first course.

The Tabernacle Church, Chicago, Illinois, the Rev. E. F. Williams pastor, has pledged \$11,000 as a memorial offering for the purpose of raising the church, and putting under a basement. The rate of giving for this improvement was one-fourth of the income of the donors.

The Congregationalist gives 88 as the number of Congregational churches formed during the year. Number of ministers deceased, 52.

REFORMED (DUTCH).—Seventy persons have united with the Lee Avenue Reformed Church, Brooklyn, within the past eleven weeks. Thirty joined last week. The congregation has increased with the same rapidity, and but few pews remain unrented and unoccupied in the large edifice.

ROMAN CATHOLIC.—The Pope's encyclical excommunicating the Italian Government is addressed to the whole body of Roman Catholics throughout the world. The Holy Father enters into a description of the horrible state of Rome ever since the invasion was made, especially alleging the introduction of immoral books and newspapers into the sacred precincts, and the violence committed against church property. He bitterly complains of that "enormous crime," the plebiscite of October 2, formally repeats his protests against the applications which have been committed during latter years, declares himself to be under duress, and adds another non possumus. He finally proceeds to pronounce the excommunicatio major against "all those who have been instrumental in accomplishing the invasion or usurpation of any provinces whatsoever appertaining to our State and the Holy City, those under whose orders they have acted, and any persons having aided, abetted, advised, or otherwise encouraged, or who may have personally contributed to the execution of the

before-mentioned acts under whatsoever pretext. The Great Mass of Lejeal, the first performance of which at St. John's Church, took place in musical circles, will be repeated at that church to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock. Bishop Becker, of Wilmington, will preach the sermon, and at the offertory the fine solo baritone of Baumgartner, "Jesu Dulcis Memoria," will be sung with flute obligato accompaniment.

JEWIS.—The Jewish residents of Yokohama are making preparations for erecting the first synagogue of Japan.

CITY ORDINANCES.—To Rearrange and fix the Boundary Lines of Election Divisions and Places of Holding Elections in the Nineteenth Ward, and to Create Three Additional Divisions Therein.

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the city of Philadelphia do ordain, That the First, Second, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Tenth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second divisions shall be and remain as heretofore established.

Section 2. The boundaries of the Third division shall be as follows:—Commencing at the southeast corner of Frankford and Norris street, thence along the south side of Norris street to Howard street, thence along the east side of Howard street to Harrison street, thence along the north side of Harrison street to Frankford road, thence along the west side of Frankford road to the place of beginning. To vote at the house of William Lentz, Frankford road and Norris street.

Section 3. The boundaries of the Fourth division shall be as follows:—Commencing at the northwest corner of Frankford and Norris street, thence along the west side of Frankford road to Ois street, thence along the south side of Ois street to Coral street, thence along the east side of Coral street to Front street, thence along the east side of Front to Norris street, thence along the north side of Norris street to the place of beginning. To vote at the house of John Thompson, northwest corner of Amber and Breer streets.

Section 4. The boundaries of the Ninth division shall be as follows:—Commencing at the northeast corner of Germantown avenue and Diamond street, thence along the east side of Germantown avenue to Sixth street, thence along the east side of Sixth street to Susquehanna avenue, thence along the south side of Susquehanna avenue to Apple street, thence along the west side of Apple street to Diamond street, thence along the north side of Diamond street to the place of beginning. To vote at the house of Henry Dinkelacker, northwest corner of Fifth and Diamond streets.

Section 5. The boundaries of the Twentieth division shall be as follows:—Commencing at the west corner of Howard and Norris streets, thence along the south side of Norris street to American street, thence along the east side of American street to Berks street, thence along the north side of Berks street to Second street, thence along the east side of Second street to Columbia avenue, thence along the north side of Columbia avenue to Howard street, thence along the west side of Howard street to the place of beginning. To vote at the house of Andrew Anderson, southwest corner of Second and New streets.

Section 6. The boundaries of the Twenty-fourth division shall be as follows:—Commencing at the northwest corner of Front street and Norris street, thence along the north side of Norris street to Second street, thence along the east side of Second street to Susquehanna avenue, thence along the south side of Susquehanna avenue to Ois street, thence along the south side of Ois street to Coral street, thence along the west side of Coral street to Front street, thence along the west side of Front street to the place of beginning. To vote at the house of John Goodwin, southwest corner of Diamond and Second streets.

Section 7. The boundaries of the Twenty-fifth division shall be as follows:—Commencing at the northeast corner of Apple street and Diamond street, thence along the north side of Diamond street to Second street, thence along the west side of Second street to Susquehanna avenue, thence along the south side of Susquehanna avenue to Apple street, thence along the east side of Apple street to the place of beginning. To vote at the house of Charles Smith, at the northeast corner of Fourth and Diamond streets.

LOUIS WAGNER, President of Common Council. Attest—ABRAHAM STEWART, Assistant Clerk of Common Council. SAMUEL W. CATTELL, President of Select Council.

Approved this eleventh day of January, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one (A. D. 1871).

DANIEL M. FOX, Mayor of Philadelphia. RESOLUTION. Of Instruction to the Department of Highways. Whereas, By act of Assembly approved March 18, 1869, for the grading, paving, and macadamizing Lehigh avenue, from Frankford avenue to Broad street, the owners of property on said avenue have entered into a contract with Messrs. Holgate & Co. for said work, and the Councils having by resolution approved the contract for grading the same and provided for the payment thereof, therefore be it Resolved, By the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, That the Department of Highways be hereby authorized and directed to enter into a contract with Messrs. Holgate & Co. for the paving of (with cobble and rubble stone) Lehigh avenue from Frankford avenue to Broad street, in conformity with the Act of Assembly. The conditions of the contract shall be that the contractor or contractors shall collect the cost of said paving from the owners of property fronting on said avenue; and shall also enter into an obligation to keep said avenue in good repair for three years after the paving is finished.

LOUIS WAGNER, President of Common Council. Attest—ABRAHAM STEWART, Assistant Clerk of Common Council. SAMUEL W. CATTELL, President of Select Council.

Approved this seventh day of January, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one (A. D. 1871).

DANIEL M. FOX, Mayor of Philadelphia. AN ORDINANCE. To Authorize the Erection of Frame Church Edifice at the Northwest Corner of Canal and Norris Streets.

Section 1. The Select and Common Councils of the city of Philadelphia do ordain, That the church organization known as the Chapel of the Church of the Merciful Saviour be and they are hereby authorized to erect a temporary frame church edifice at the northwest corner of Canal and Norris streets, in the Twenty-eighth ward; Provided, That the permission hereby given may be revoked by the city of Philadelphia at any time, without notice, by the passage of an ordinance to that effect. And provided, That the said church organization shall first pay to the City Treasurer twenty-five dollars to pay for the publication of this ordinance; And provided, That the building shall only be used for church and Sunday-school purposes.

HENRY HUHN, President of Common Council. Attest—BENJAMIN H. HAINES, Clerk. SAMUEL W. CATTELL, President of Select Council.

Approved this twentieth day of January, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one (A. D. 1871).

FINANCIAL. Wilmington and Reading RAILROAD SEVEN PER CENT. BONDS Free of Taxes. We are offering \$200,000 of the Second Mortgage Bonds of this Company AT 82½ AND ACCRUED INTEREST. For the convenience of investors these Bonds are issued in denominations of \$1000s, \$500s, and \$100s. The money is required for the purchase of additional Rolling Stock and the full equipment of the Road. The road is now finished, and doing a business largely in excess of the anticipations of its officers. The trade offering necessitates a large additional outlay for rolling stock, to afford full facilities for its prompt transaction, the present rolling stock not being sufficient to accommodate the trade.

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